

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 28, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on the combination of U.S. Pat. No. 5,689,141 to Kikkawa, et al (Kikkawa) in view of U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0052485 to Poteet, et al. (Poteet). The Examiner also maintained the objection to FIG. 3 in the drawings. The Examiner granted and gave a telephonic interview to Applicants' representative on November 21, 2008 upon the oral request of Applicants' representative, which is greatly appreciated. Applicants herein present responses in light of the office action, the prior art, and the interview. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and an allowance of currently pending claims 1-11 and the figures and specification, as amended.

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because FIG. 3 did not copy well and no details can be seen. Applicants have attached a replacement sheet to this office action response in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d). The replacement sheet includes a replacement FIG. 3 that is more readily reproducible. Acceptance of the drawings is earnestly solicited.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by Kikkawa in view of Poteet. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the prior art fails to teach or suggest each element of the claims and teaches away from at least one of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 1 requires, among other things, "a frequency converter connected between the motor and the power grid to condition the frequency in both directions (to the grid and from the grid) thereby allowing both non-synchronous operation and most efficient gas turbine operation." Kikkawa discloses the use of a frequency converter, but only for start-up operations and specifically teaches away from any non-synchronous operation. Poteet fails to teach or suggest anything about the use of a frequency converter or synchronous operation of the turbine. For at least these reasons, it is believed that claim 1 is patentable over the prior art and an allowance of claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments, interview, and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims 1-11, removal of the objection to the drawings, and issuance of a notice of allowance of the application. While no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account No. 05-1328 for any fees associated with this application. Further, if the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 25, 2008

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